GAYSPEAK

NEWSLETTER OF THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 9 SEPT. 1985

CENTER ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, SEPT. 29TH

"Before we set that date for the annual meeting, Pembroke, check to make sure it's not a full moon."

Yes...the 29th will be a full-moon night, but we're hoping that all Center members will attend and participate in directing the Center over the next year.
The Annual meeting will be held at the Center office, 1809 Depaul. The agenda includes a report by the President on the health of the Center, its accomplishments over the past year, and any projected plans/problems for the coming year. In addition, some By-Law's revisions will be voted on. These suggested revisions are presented elsewhere in this issue of Gayspeak. (pp. 2-5).
The Board is very pleased with the number of persons who have stepped forth from the "ranks" and will be standing for election to various offices. "It looks as if we'll have a very good slate of candidates for the officer positions on the Board," stated present Center President Joe Brady.
The meeting on the 29th is open to all who wish to attend. Time: 2pm Voting on issues or for officers is limited to Center members, though.

DON THOMAS, 1946-1985

September 4 Don Thomas lost his fight against lymphnoma. He was a member of the Center, and active in PSN and MCC. At the memorial service September 5, Rev. Roger Webb noted that "we are a young community, and this is our first funeral." It was a moving experience to see gays as hosts to straights and handling it with dignity. Don leaves his lover, Matthew, his parents, and five sisters.

RICKY MORRIS NEEDS HELP

Li'l Ricky has been in the hospital with an ailing liver all summer. He expects to get out by the time this issue of GAYSPEAK comes out. He will need help in such housekeeping chores as cleaning, cooking, and shopping. Anyone who can volunteer a little time on a regular basis should call the Helpline 471-4GAY.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS REVISIONS

Most of the proposed changes are changes in wording recognizing the fact that the makeup of the Board has altered over the past year.

Article I...Name & Purpose

Present: The purpose of this corporation shall be one of service and education for lesbians and gay men as well as the larger community, and shall concern itself with the health and human development of its members.

Proposed: The purpose of this corporation shall be one of service and education for lesbians and gay men as well as society as a whole, and shall concern itself with the following:

a) the encouragement of gays and lesbians in pursuit of their own personal wellbeing, their political and spiritual growth.

b) the creation of an atmosphere of mutual respect, cooperation and acceptance among all elements of our diverse lesbian and gay community.

c) the defense of human rights and the promotion of mutual respect between the gay and lesbian community and society as a whole.

d) the recognition and fostering of lesbian and gay culture and history.

Article III...Governing Policy
Section 1

The following matters are reserved to the exclusive jurisdiction of the General Membership:

Present: a) election of the members of the Board of Directors of PPGCC

Proposed: a) election of the officers of the Board of Directors of PPGCC

Article V...Membership

Present: There shall be one class of members which shall be called the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

*Proposed: Members of the Center shall comprise the body known as the GENERAL MEMBERSHIP.

Article VII...Board of Directors

Present: The Center Board of Directors shall consist of six(6) members in good standing and a majority of the Board(4) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

*See discussion of the change by Shellie K at the end of the suggested revisions.

Proposed: The Center Board of Directors shall be composed of the officers of the Center elected by the General Membership and representatives/liaison persons selected by gay social, political, religious organizations, and/or businesses who are Center members. These representatives/liaison persons shall participate in all Board decisions and have the same voting status as the officers of the Board. Two-thirds of the Board members present at a Board meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Subsection "a" remains the same. Delete subsection "b."

Article VII...Board of Directors
Section 1

Present: e) to disqualify, by a vote of not less than four(4) Board members any individual Board member.

Proposed: e) to disqualify, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Board members present and voting, any individual Board member.

Present: f) to appoint, by vote of not less than four(4) Board members, interim Board members to fill any vacancies.

Proposed: f) to appoint, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Board members present and voting, interim Board members or officers to fill any vacancies.

Section 2
Subsection "a"

Present: Special meetings of the Board of Directors for any purpose(s) shall be called at any time by the President or by any four(4) Board members.

Proposed: Special meetings of the Board of Directors for any purpose(s) shall be called at any time by the President or by two-thirds of the Board members so desiring.

Section 5

Present: Board members shall receive no compensation for their services.

Proposed: As a general rule, Board members shall receive no compensation for their services. However, the Board, at its discretion, may compensate a member or members as is deemed necessary to carry on the function of the particular office or duties. However, when the vote is taken on such compensation, the affected party(ies) shall have no vote.

Section 6

Present: At an election held for Board members electees receiving the most votes shall each serve one(1) year terms.

a) A procedure of cumulative voting shall be used in the elections for the Board.

Proposed: At an election held for Board officers electees receiving the most votes shall each serve one(1) year terms.

Delete subsection "a." Subsection "b" becomes "a" and subsection "c" becomes "b."

Article VIII...Duties of the Board Officers

Secretary/Treasurer: Add..."S/he shall keep the Center mailing list current at all times."

Delete the foregoing sentence from the job description of the Newsletter Editor.

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At its August meeting the Board of Directors of PPGCC discussed the proposed changes to the By-Laws. Much discussion was centered around that of membership. Since the Board could not come to any consensus on this issue, it was decided that the other suggested change proposed for this section of the By-Laws be included so that Center members could react and vote. These additional changes were suggested by Shellie K. Additional wording is underlined.

Article V...Membership Section 1

There shall be two classes of members of the Center, personal and corporate, which shall comprise the body known as the General Membership.

Section 2

A personal member shall be any person of good will, 16 yrs. of age or older. Corporate members shall be any gay, social, political, religious organization or business. Said members shall pay an annual membership fee. The personal membership fee for those on limited income may be waived for equivalent services to the Center.

Article VII...Board of Directors

Corporate members may elect...

Section 6

At an election of the personal membership held for the Board officers, electees...

Rationale for these changes(by Shellie K)

It is my opinion that PPGCC operates with two distinct classes of members: personal(including household) and corporate(social, political, & religious organizations and businesses).
Article VII subsection "b" grants voting privileges to what I label corporate members at all Board meetings. A personal(or household) membership does not.
Corporate members receive another bonus from PPGCC, that of referral by the Helpline volunteers.

I do not feel that an organization or a business shold be given a ballot to vote for the officiers of the PPGCC Board of Directors. I feel that privilege belongs to the individuals who are members of the Center.

The following examples illustrate my concerns:

1) Suppose Pat owns a gay business, purchases a business membership in the Center and also a personal membership. Pat has 2 votes for Board officers. I firmly believe in 1 vote per person!

2) Suppose Chris is the liaison/representative for a gay organization and sits on the Board.

   a) Chris receives a ballot for the organization he/she represents and takes that ballot back to the organization for a vote on how to cast the ballot. Logistically this is difficult for an organization as large as PPMCC, PSN, or the Court. Each organization, then, must decide if the votes cast are from members of the organization, their own Boards (if applicable) or just those present at a particular meeting. Again, the question of more than one vote per person arises. Center members who are also members/attendees/Board members of a Center organization have 1 personal vote and fractional votes for each organizational affiliation.

   b) Suppose for whatever reason, Chris decides to cast the ballot as the liaison. Chris is also a Center member and like Pat then has 2 votes.

A counter argument has been suggested. If not allowed to vote for Board officers, then several organizations and businesses may not join(or rejoin) the Center. Personally, I believe that the privilege of a voting representative at every Center Board meeting is far too great to miss! Plus organizations and businesses(members and non-members) receive Helpline referrals!

Lastly, please join the Center if you are not already a member! Vote for your Board officers and the proposed By-Laws changes you agree with. This is your organization. GET INVOLVED.

AIDS INFORMATIONAL PROJECT NOT FUNDED

In a recent letter received by Center Vice-President, Tim Symons, the U.S. Conference of Mayors declined to fund an AIDS information project for the Springs submitted last Spring. The reasons given were the large number of applicants and a lack of available funds. This is the second try at the funding which has involved a great amount of time spent in completing the proposal and putting a tentative staff together. "I just don't have either the time or the energy to do it again if funds become available," said Tim.
At its August meeting members of the Board decided to form a committee to explore funding this project on our own, and coordinating with other such community groups that might be in their formative stages. Interested persons or groups are invited to attend the September 17th Board meeting at the Center office, 1809 DePaul. Time: 7:30pm.

PARENTS & FRIENDS GROUP MEETING AGAIN

The next meeting of the Center's Parents & Friends Group will be on Saturday, Sept. 14th at Muriel Davis' home. Time: 2pm.
The group has been inactive over the summer.

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VALETE, an editorial

This issue is the editor's last, after serving two years. Commitments to a three-year term as co-chair of the Anthropology Research Group on Homosexuality, and an indefinite term on the board of the Harvard Gay and Lesbian Caucus, will use up all of his spare time in the future. Further, he will spend all summer every summer away from Colorado Springs, and the Center needs GAYSPEAK all year round.

There are thanks to be offered. First, last, and in between, to Bob Armintor, who was the first editor of GAYSPEAK and reliably provided accurate information for each issue about Center activities and other affairs. And he pinch-hit on almost no notice in April when the weakest editorial disk herniated yet again. He brought out the August issue, and wrote most of this one. Second, to Alma Cremonesi and Shellie K., editorial staff, who helped both in writing and in the donkey work necessary to get each issue to you. They collaborated on the highly successful June issue, devoted to feminist news and concerns. For the Center's sake, let us hope that both of them continue to write for GAYSPEAK. Third, to Harry Staub, who faithfully provided technical help during the period when Echo Print was our press, and whose work making attractive advertising copy out of miscellaneous ideas often seemed like wizardry. Fourth, to Dan Ames, who during the early days of the GAYSPEAK-Echo Print association gave almost more help than we had resources to respond to, and whose financial help was bountiful. Fifth, to others who have written articles.
No thanks at all to Center members and others who promised articles but failed to keep their promises.

If there is an unmet need in the Center, it is for members to put their money where their mouths are. Criticism against every aspect of the Center's work is easy, cheap and frequent. Support in the form of time, of meeting financial pledges to contribute regularly, of work to meet the Center's needs, is less frequent but is absolutely vital. Board members are needed who can think of more ways to finance our work than ways to spend what money we have. The election later this month features new candidates; let us hope they serve us well.

Paul Kutsche

TWO NEW BOOKS, ONE NOT QUITE SO NEW. Reviews by Paul Kutsche

Quiet Fire: Memoirs of Older Gay Men, by Keith Vacha. The Crossing Press, 1985.

Seventeen descriptions of survivors of the bad old days, taken from taped interviews. Some of the subjects are happy and wise, some are bitter and poor and appear to have learned little. All came out when there was no support, from as early as 1910, and made it to tell their tales in the 1980s.

The "stereotype of the sad and lonely older gay in America" is broken thoroughly. These histories tell of stable sets of friends, in some cases of close relations with the authors' blood relations. In this respect as in others, we are out own worst enemy: "The gay media itself, often reinforces youth-orientation in an effort to sell their products or promote patronage." (Cf. Advocate, for instance.)

These stories make a good read. They are told frankly, with the explicit adventure we love so well. All in all, an upbeat book.

Letter from a Great-Uncle & Other Stories, by Richard Hall. Grey Fox Press, 1985.

Hall is himself a mature gay. Graduated from college in 1947, author of Couplings, The Butterscotch Prince, Three Plays for a Gay Theater, he has been popularly known so far for luscious descriptions of Puerto Rican hustlers and their relations with U.S. Anglo Johns. In this collection he sits back and talks about settled gay social structure. There is less wet sex than formerly, but more reflection on the lives of gays who have passed the flush of youth, and how the world looks to them. The title story is a coming out in the 19th century, and "A Rose in Murcia" is a painfully poignant memory of a love celebrated years before on Mallorca. The gay of mature years is as interesting as anything younger.

The Color Purple, by Alice Walker. New York: Pocket Books, 1982.

This is only incidentally a lesbian novel. But as a lesbian novel, it is unique.

The first-person protagonist is an unlettered Southern Black woman who writes to God because she has no human to talk to. She is raped by her father (who turns out to be her stepfather) as a child, bears two children by him, loses them to adoption, is more or less sold off in marriage to an older neighbor. Finally she meets her husband's former girlfriend and falls in love with her--the first time she has had any human being to love, except for her affection for her sister Nettie.

The remarkable thing about this love affair is its unremarkableness. It is told in the same matter of fact but rich style as the rest of the heroine's life, with a blessed relief from "I thought I was the only person in the world..." and other coming out claptrap.

The novel develops through letters between the heroine and Nettie, who subtly reports Black oppression against Blacks in Nigeria.

As a chance to see lesbian love as one aspect of a healthy, sane and lusty life, this novel is a wonder.

All of these books on sale at Category Six.

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CENTER SUPPORT GROUPS

Here are the groups which meet regularly at present. For referral or more information, please call the Helpline---471-4GAY.

"Can We Talk?" Mondays at 7pm at the Center. For all ages & genders.
"Count Me In" Thursdays at 7:30pm. For women and men 30 and over.
"Parents & Friends of Gays" Second Saturday of each month. Call 634-0776. Ask for Muriel.
"Speakers Bureau" Call Roger at 635-5452.
"Young Men's Support Group" Chuck at 1-542-2624
"The Women's Group" Women only group. Meets on Wednesdays.

OTHER GROUPS/SERVICES

"Dignity"(Catholic support group)--Thursday evenings, 7pm, room 9 Sacred Heart Parish, 21st Street and Pikes Peak.
Metropolitan Community Church--services Sundays at 5pm, 730 N. Tejon
Network--1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, 6-9pm, The Exit Lounge, 2028 Sheldon.
Gay Alcoholics Anonymous--Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8pm, basement of All Souls Unitarian Church, 730 N. Tejon.
STD Clinic(Sexually Transmitted Diseases)--510 N. Foote. Nominal fee. Information confidential. Minors examined without parental consent. Phone: 578-3148.
STD Clinic(Pueblo)--151 Central Main Street. Phone: 545-4650 or 544-8376.
National Gay Task Force CrisisLine to report anti-lesbian or gay violence, 1-7pm Mountain time. 1-800-221-7044.

Maranatha MCC--services at 10:30am Sundays at the Center.
Imperial Court of Southern Colorado--monthly meetings at the Exit. Contact Bob Steinborn at 471-7468 for details.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Fill in the form below and mail it with check or money order to PPGCC, P.O. Box 574, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80901.

_____ New _____ Renewal

_____ $ 5.00 Student (16 to 21)
_____ $ 7.50 Individual (21 and up)
_____ $10.00 Household
_____ $ 60.00 Sustaining
_____ $35.00 Institutional
_____ $120.00 Business

Membership runs for one year from the date of joining. Each type of membership includes voting privileges, and the right to hold office. Membership list is confidential.

Name (print as you wish on membership card) _____

_____

(street or P.O. box number) (city) (state) (zip)

Total enclosed $ _____